



Colorado  
Cactus &  
Succulent  
Society

YOUR 2026 EDITOR:  
SCOTT BURKHOLDER

## MONTHLY PLANT SHOW

Monthly Plant Show Plants  
Monstrose/Crested -  
Cacti & Succulents  
Detail are in the newsletter

*Mini Plant Show!*

*South Africa*

*Show & Sale Prep*

*Plus Photos  
and More!*

March 2026, Vol 30 No. 1

The Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society promotes education, enjoyment, cultivation, and conservation of cacti and other succulents among our members and the larger community.



Jason Wiley presenting  
"A Life in Cactus" at our February Meeting  
Scott Burkholder Photo

## UPCOMING MEETING

**Date:** Tuesday, March 24th, 2026

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Location:** Denver Botanic Gardens - Gates Hall

**Presentation:** Stunning Plants from South Africa

**Presenter:** Scott Preusser

**Details:**

In this presentation, Scott will share breathtaking images of succulents in habitat, insights into the ecology of these remarkable regions, and highlights from one of the most botanically rich areas in the world.

# SUCCULENT BITS

## **March Meeting**

March's meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 24th, at the Denver Botanic Gardens in Gates Hall.

*See You There!*

## ***Monthly Plant Show***

***This is a great opportunity to practice showing plants for the Big Plant Show in April!***

***Remember, if the weather is poor next week, and it could be, to protect your plants from the cold!***



**Bring them to the Monthly Plant Show!**

Pedro Galvez Photo

## **2026 PLANT SHOW & SALE**

- 1) Start collecting beer flats -  
Check at the local liquor stores, and just about any small boxes are fine!
- 2) Get those plants ready for to show -  
It'll be time to start prepping them for action, and don't forget to find some boxes for transporting them.
- 3) Prepare to volunteer -  
There's plenty to do!

## ***Mailing List updates***

We are in the process of updating the CCSS Member mailing list! If you know of a member that's not receiving either club emails or newsletters, please send their name and email address to Scott at [seisnoir@comcast.net](mailto:seisnoir@comcast.net)!

Thanks!!

## ***Enjoy Scott Preusser's Presentations and like Agaves?***

Scott Preusser is presenting his lecture "All About Agaves" on 3/18 at 6:30 pm in Sturm. It is the bookend to the Agave exhibition which is set to close in the gallery on 3/22.

## Notes From the Potting Bench

The April Show and Sale is fast approaching. Scott Burkholder will post a Sign-Up Genius volunteer form soon so start thinking about how you can help us with the show and sale. We will need extra help at the storage locker because we are planning to move closer to the event location.

Since RMC-NARGS is holding a separate sale this year, we are planning to have more vendors and hope to expand the show area. Pedro has requested the same food trucks as last year.

It's also not too early to start preparing your plants for the show, making sure you wake them up from their winter sleep and perhaps putting them into new, beautiful pots.

Hopefully, we can schedule some field trips and garden tours in late May and early June. We haven't had a field trip outside of the Denver metro area for a while. If you have an idea for a field trip or garden tour locations, contact one of our board members.

Randy

**A crested cactus,  
suitable for the  
Monthly Plant Show!**  
Pedro Galvez Photo



## 2026 Show and Sale Notes

As you might imagine, we are busy preparing for this year's Plant Show and Sale! Here are a few of the things that are happening:

- We are editing the Show Rules to add clarity. Last year, we had folks entering multiple plants into individual species categories. The rules specify only one plant per category. We will expand this to three plants per species, as that's the most ribbons that can be awarded for each category. This year we'll ask plant exhibitors to respect this rule.
- We try to have a 5 pm cut-off time for entering plants in the Show. Please, if possible, have your entry cards completed in advance!
- Members in good standing will be able to and invited to participate in the Member's sale Friday Night. Any member who arrives at 5 pm for the Member's Sale will be welcome to check out and choose plants before we admit the general public Saturday morning.

That's the heavy stuff. However, other items that you should be aware of include:

- Volunteer! The 2026 Volunteer Sign-Up Genius webpage should be active as you're reading this newsletter
- Start collecting beer flats and small boxes for guests shopping for plants. With two hands a guest will select two plants. But a guest with a box will often fill that box with plants! Those boxes are an important part of the sale.
- Please start prepping your plants for the Plant Show! My plants are starting to break dormancy and I suspect your plants are also starting to show "signs of life", if not starting to bloom! The Plant Show is an important part of this event as it gives guests a look at what their plant could become. *Oh, and winning ribbons is cool.* This includes finding boxes and containers to transport your plants to and from the Fairgrounds! Remember, it snowed last year and history tends to repeat itself!
- Hopefully, as you read this, I'll have the volunteer Sign-Up on the website ready to go! So please start thinking of how you'd like to volunteer and get ready to sign up.

Thanks,

Scott Burkholder  
2026 Show and Sale Chairman



At the Show and Sale!  
Scott Burkholder Selfie

## "Stunning Plants from South Africa" - Scott Preusser



**South Africa!**  
Scott Preusser Photo

Join us for an unforgettable evening with Scott Preusser, horticulturist at the Denver Botanic Gardens, where he oversees the renowned cactus and succulent collections and helps manage the tropical collections.

Scott recently returned from his first trip to Namaqualand and the Karoo in South Africa — widely considered the greatest region on earth for succulent plant diversity. Timing could not have been better. He experienced these landscapes during an extraordinary “super bloom,” when vast stretches of arid terrain erupt into spectacular color and floral abundance.

In this presentation, Scott will share breathtaking images of succulents in habitat, insights into the ecology of these remarkable regions, and highlights from one of the most botanically rich areas in the world.

You will not want to miss this presentation!.

### **Scott Preusser**

Scott Preusser is the horticulturist at Denver botanic Gardens who oversees our cactus and succulent collections as well as helping manage all of the tropical collections. Scott has expanded these collections tremendously in his tenure as well as totally transforming the succulent house in the southwest corner of the Botanic Gardens grounds.

### **Scott's Bonus Presentation!**

Scott also is presenting his lecture “All About Agaves” on 3/18 at 6:30 pm in the Sturm Family Auditorium. This is the bookend to the Agave exhibition which is set to close in the gallery on 3/22.

## Join the Cactus & Succulent Society of America!

### **Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society Members get a DISCOUNT when joining or renewing the national CSSA**

As a valued CSSA Affiliate, CCSS – Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society now has access to the new CSSA Supporting Membership benefit—just \$10/year (regularly \$20) for our members.

#### **Below are the specific details for the CCSS:**

[\*Click here for the Direct Discount Link \(Recommended\):\*](#)

Your Club's Discount Code:

*Colorado-Affiliate-Partner-Discount*

#### **How Club Members Can Sign Up:**

Option 1: Using the Direct Link (easiest method)

- Share your club's unique link with members.
- When they click it, the discount will be automatically applied at checkout.

Option 2: Entering the Discount Code at Checkout

- Members can also go to the CSSA Supporting Membership page and proceed to checkout.
- At checkout, they will see an "Enter Discount Code" link.
- Once clicked, they can enter your club's unique code and press Apply Discount.
- The discount will be applied, and the total will update to \$10.

#### **For Current CSSA Supporting Members:**

- Members who already have a Supporting Membership should log into their existing account first.
- Once logged in, they can use the discount link during checkout to renew at the \$10 rate.

## **Cactus & Succulent Society of America Member Benefits!**

### **What Members Receive with a \$10 Supporting Membership**



**To The Point digital e-newsletter (quarterly)**



**Notifications of CSSA monthly webinars**



**Access to purchase seeds from the CSSA Seed Depot**



**A meaningful way to support CSSA's mission in conservation, research, & education**

# CCSS Monthly Plant Show - Pedro Galvez

## **The Rules:**

The mini shows are a way to up member engagement and to get them excited to show their plants in the Judged Show in April.

The rules for judging are similar to the criteria of the actual show except we're not as critical. This is a great opportunity to offer any tips and critiques on plants entered to give members an idea of what a show plant should embody. Usually the mini shows are judged by the speaker or special guest. We have entry cards similar to the ones for the show.

Entries will be award points based on what "ribbon" they get. 3 for blue, 2 for red, 1 for yellow. Those points will be counted and will be added to each members tally toward prizes that will be awarded at the end of the year. Prizes TBD, but they'll be great!

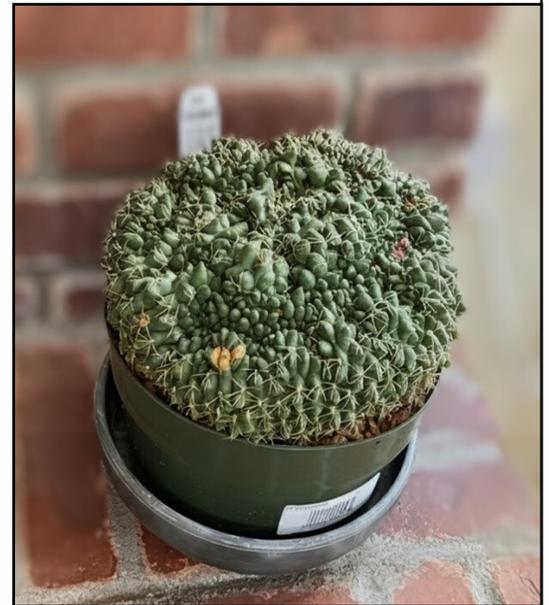
If you're entering plants, please try to arrive a few minutes early to complete the plant entry cards! And, like the Plant Shoe and Sale, there is a limit of three plants per category.

## ***This month's categories are:***

### **Monstrose Plants:**

A monstrose mutation is a genetic disruption of the apical meristem that results in irregular, chaotic, and "freakish" growth. These mutations are often triggered by genetic defects or external damage from insects, disease, or environmental stress.

Key features are unpredictable, sculptural forms and may even lack spines compared to normal plants of the same species, multiple growth points that cluster or are more sporadic.



Monstrose Cactus

Pedro Galvez Photo

## CCSS Monthly Plant Show (continued)

### **Crested Plants:**

Like monstrose growth, crested or cristate mutations occur for the same reasons. Where these mutations differ is in their form. Due to damage-induced mutation where the plant's growth point (apical meristem) turns into a line, causing stems to fan out, twist, and form brain-like, wavy, or serpentine shapes.



Crested Succulent

Pedro Galvez Photo

Please note that some times both mutations can occur on the same plant.

### **Propagation and care:**

Since the mutation isn't always passed through seeds, these plants are typically propagated via cloning, such as cuttings or grafting.

These mutations generally do not weaken the plant, usually normal care for the species of plant is advised. Although due to the nature of these forms pest management/mitigation is recommended (mealy bugs love folds and tight spaces). Pruning of reverted "normal" growth is recommended to maintain mutated shape.

## Jackson Burkholder Wins!

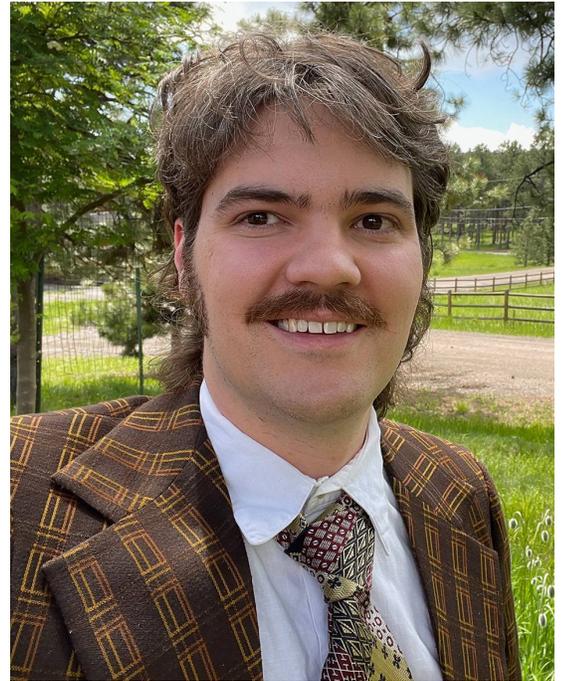
**The Cactus and Succulent Society of America is proud to spotlight board member Jackson F. Burkholder, whose passion for cactus research and plant anatomy continues to enrich both our organization and the broader botanical community.**

Jackson recently earned his Master of Science in Biology from Texas State University and received the Outstanding Master's Thesis Award in the Life and Biological Sciences category for his thesis, Comparative Anatomy of Extrafloral Nectaries in the Cactus Family (Cactaceae). His research explored the intricate anatomical structures of extrafloral nectaries within Cactaceae, contributing valuable insight into cactus morphology and function.

Jackson's fascination with plant anatomy began during his undergraduate studies, when he discovered he could combine his love of plants with optics and advanced visual techniques. He is especially drawn to the intricate cellular patterns and minute anatomical details that reveal both the scientific complexity and artistic beauty of plants.

Reflecting on his graduate experience, Jackson emphasizes perseverance and thoroughness in research: even when a project feels overwhelming, dedication leads to a final product you can be proud of. He credits his advisor, David Lemke, Ph.D., for providing both foundational training and the freedom to experiment with new approaches—an experience that strengthened his confidence and adaptability when working with challenging specimens.

We are honored to have Jackson's expertise, curiosity, and commitment to scientific excellence represented on the CSSA Board. His work exemplifies the depth of research and appreciation for plant structure that inspires our community.



**Jackson F. Burkholder**

Judith Burkholder Photo

[\*Click here for the CSSA Website Article\*](#)

# 2026 COLORADO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS:

March 24th, 2026 - March 2026 Club Meeting

April 25th & 26th, 2026 - 2026 Plant Show & Sale

May 26th, 2026 - Monthly Meeting: Wagner on Mesembs

## JOIN THE CONVERSATION:



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